



HR0265

LRB099 08019 MST 32272 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Encouraging educational excellence is in the best interests of the people of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The intention of Charter School Law in Illinois is to improve pupil learning by creating schools with high, rigorous standards for pupil performance; and

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WHEREAS, Charter schools try to encourage the use of teaching methods that may be different in some respects than others regularly used in the public school systems; and

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WHEREAS, Charter schools allow the development of new, different, or alternative forms of measuring pupil learning and achievement; and

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WHEREAS, Charter schools create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning programs at school sites; and

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WHEREAS, The State shall hold charter schools accountable for meeting rigorous school content standards and for providing those schools with the opportunity to improve accountability; and

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1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to create
2 opportunities within the public school system of Illinois for
3 development of innovative and accountable teaching techniques;
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5 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a commitment to the
6 mission, goals, and diversity of public education; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a wide variety of charter school types,
8 practices, and levels of success achieved by those schools; and

9 WHEREAS, In a 2013 study of Illinois' schools by the Center
10 for Research on Education Outcomes, it was found that 20% of
11 charter schools perform significantly better than the
12 traditional public school market, and 21% of them performed
13 significantly worse; and

14 WHEREAS, In the 2013-2014 school year, statewide charter
15 school enrollment has risen to 59,925 pupils within 143
16 campuses of 64 charter schools; and

17 WHEREAS, The current statewide cap on the amount of charter
18 schools is 120; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2013, the statewide 4-year graduation rate
20 among all charters was 60.4%, compared with an 84% graduation

1 rate among traditional public schools; and

2 WHEREAS, In the 2012-2013 school year, only 13% of all
3 charters statewide met or exceeded the State's Adequate Yearly
4 Progress target for State standards in reading and math,
5 compared with 16% for traditional public schools; and

6 WHEREAS, Charter school authorizers are responsible for
7 issuing charter contracts to school boards and determining
8 whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal, or
9 revocation; and

10 WHEREAS, Charter school authorizers provide oversight and
11 enforce accountability mechanisms to ensure quality schools;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Charter school authorizers set academic, fiscal,
14 and managerial standards for charter schools to meet;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 the House Elementary & Secondary Education Charter School
19 Policy Committee is directed to hold several subject matter
20 hearings on charter school best practices; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That charter school authorizers and charter
2 entities throughout the State, including the Illinois State
3 Charter School Commission, are invited and encouraged to attend
4 these hearings to provide their expertise on the subject.